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# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

23rd January 2024

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contact the Secretary on [info@shirebiz.org.au](mailto:info@shirebiz.org.au)**

## **Realise Business: 7 Key Digital Strategies for Australian Small Businesses in 2024**

In the ever-evolving digital landscape, staying ahead is crucial for small businesses. Reader our insightful article, [7 Key Digital Strategies for Australian Small Businesses in 2024](#), where we delve into the most effective digital trends and strategies that are vital for your business's growth and success. From enhancing your website's functionality to mastering the art of social media engagement, we provide a comprehensive guide to make your business digitally savvy.

## **Small Business Connections: What is the small business insurance crisis?**

Many small and family businesses say their biggest and most pressing cost pressure is not wages, energy or even landlords putting up the rent; it's insurance,

writes Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Bruce Billson. Finding adequate insurance cover at commercially viable terms is fast becoming a wicked challenge that is, sadly, in too many cases, forcing small businesses out of business.

**Two CRC bids combine to seek new manufacturing CRC funding**

Two bids for new manufacturing related Cooperative Research Centres have agreed to merge their bid to increase opportunities for company involvement and the chance of securing CRC backing for their proposals. The SMCRC (Surface Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre) and AMCRC (Additive Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre) have decided to merge into a single, unified bid. This strategic decision was made after careful consideration of feedback from industry and research partners

## **PM insists NRF money available now, though application process unclear**

It is the time of year when many of us are reopening, if we aren't already open for business. Being open for business can have different meanings for different people, as prime minister Anthony Albanese's description of the National Reconstruction Fund on Monday morning showed. The independent National Reconstruction Fund Corporation is tasked with making investments for the government's \$15 billion NRF.

## **COSBOA Small Business Data Report 2023 Year in Review**

Data reveals important insights into consumer spending, business growth, and job vacancies shaping the narrative for future policy making COSBOA and Square Australia have launched their comprehensive 2023 Small Business Data Report, providing an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by Australia's small business sector, amid a turbulent economic landscape.

## **My Business: Remote workers are less likely to be promoted**

A new report reveals remote workers are less likely to be rewarded at work, and receive fewer promotions and raises. The survey, conducted by Resume Builder, found remote workers were 24% less likely to be promoted. However, this group was

equally as likely or more likely to report being more productive, happier, and less stressed than hybrid and fully in office employees.

## **New complaints function for small business and consumer advocates**

The ARA has welcomed the proposed establishment of a designated [complaints function](#) within the ACCC, to assess and streamline complaint-handling for consumer and small business advocates. The ARA has also called for support and training to help build awareness and capability to manage complaints. [Click here](#) to read the ARA's submission.

## **Medtech innovator explains the rush to save brains**

With about a quarter of all people worldwide having suffered a stroke, it's a super-prevalent, [potentially fatal ailment](#) that has impacted the lives of just about everyone in some way. According to [figures collated](#) by the Stroke Foundation, a stroke happens every 19 minutes on average in this nation, with over 445,000 living with the effects of one. More women are killed by stroke than breast cancer, For men, it kills more than prostate cancer.

## **Business NSW – Members Update January 2024**

[Items include](#): **Push to end industrial action on the wharves**; [How will the plastics ban impact your business?](#); **Push to simplify awards for employers and workers**; **Upcoming changes to the Fair Work Act**; and **Fixed term contracts**

## **Bearhug aims to replace disposable pallet wrap**

Bearhug has launched a range of [reusable pallet wrap](#), aiming to replace some of the wrap used to wrap the five billion pallets in circulation globally. Alarmed by the kilos of wrap thrown out every day, founder and truck driver Tom Field and co-founder Max Higgins tackled the problem head on, developing the reusable Bearhug product. Field said: "I come back to the warehouse every day, my truck comes back every day, my pallets come back every day, why can't my wrap?"

## **What is the minimum working age? There are calls to set a national standard across Australia**

How old do you need [to be to start work](#)? If you answered 14 and 9 months you'd be

like many Australians. You would also be wrong. "The 14 years and 9 month rule is not true — it's a myth — and unfortunately we don't have a clear standard for the minimum age of working," Josh Peak, the secretary of the SDA union tells the ABC. The union, which represents employees in the fast food and retail sector (an industry reliant on young workers), is among several groups hoping to dispel that persistent myth and calling for stronger more consistent child employment laws in Australia, amidst the annual influx of young people getting summer jobs over the holidays.

## About Shirebiz

ShireBiz is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the Economic Development of Southern Sydney to enable sustainable business development which provides employment opportunities for the local community.

Our strategic pillars are:

- Advocacy for business investment, traction and job diversity eg projects such as supporting *the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct*
- Advocacy for infrastructure investment, policy change and streamlining regulatory environments in the Sutherland Shire
- Engaging the community through regular *newsletter*, and *events*

Shirebiz would like to thank our supporters for your support over the last year

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*Regards,*

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